Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

May 2, 1975

Mr. Peter Dale Scott
424 North St.
Oakland, Calif. 95609

Dear Peter:

COPY

I hold a simple belief that all the flowers would bloom and the rarely fulfilled hope that what looks like a noxious weed may turn into a plant of beauty.

Although I have never seen anything in publishing as imprecise, indefinite, evasive when there is no need for evasiveness, and open-ended as your form contract for The Politics of Assassination, I agree to your proposal of April 26, 1975, as amplified by your letter of the same date and this one.

Because I am the publisher of WHITEWASH IV, your request addressed to Jim Lesar should have been addressed to me. However, I agree to whatever he agrees to, with the added stipulation that your use include the publisher's address (which is mine) and the price of the book. I do not insist but would ask that there be a brief note on its other content, including the facsimile reproduction of the transcript. Legally you require my agreement and by this letter you have it.

With Regard to FRAME-UP, while Outerbridge was the original publisher, all the rights and all the copies have reverted to me. Therefore, the normal reference to the original publisher only would be a futility for your readers and meaningless to me. So I would expect the note to include my address, not Dutton's. To this date Dutton has not sent me a single letter. Nor did Outerbridge. Because this book is available only from me and because I have no staff, I would want the by-mail price of $10.50 included in the note.

Your form makes no provision for compensation. Your letter on this is meaningless. Nonetheless, I make no issue of this. I do hope that you will arrange some compensation promptly for the use of Jim's essay because it limits, if not eliminates, other ancillary use and because we will be applying 100 percent of whatever you pay to the debt on which we are still paying interest, the money borrowed to pay the printer alone. I have no copy of what you sent Jim. He told me of it yesterday. All your use is non-exclusive because we simply cannot afford any other arrangement with the enormous cost of this work, the other costs that have to be recaptured in some way, and the lingering debt.

While again I do not make it a condition, you will be receiving something from this work and you can pay for the use from what you receive. I have agreed to anthological uses in the past and never received a penny. You people have incomes. Jim and I do not. I think it would be fair and proper, therefore, for there to be a meaningful if token payment upon agreement.

And I do think it would be both normal and proper for you to specify some minimum rate of compensation, together with this hidden name of the publisher, size of print, the expected pub date, etc.

Neither your form nor your letter makes a single reference to any compensation for the use in future revisions or editions or the foreign-language rights. In order to speed you up and in an effort to overcome this unbusinesslike oversight, I will agree, with respect to both FRAME-UP and WHITEWASH IV, to whatever works out to be the percentage for U.S. use. If any of these uses return less than what your letter refers to as "full commercial rates," I nonetheless agree to share your risk with the understanding that, if your book succeeds, you will make up this deficiency from the later return your book brings.

I must tell you frankly that with what I have seen of what others have called "the politics of assassination," knowing no more of what you mean by it fills me with apprehension. This is not in any way diminished by what you have selected or that part of my enormous published output which goes into what I consider "the politics of assassination," some already ripped off, as by Garrison and not from the introduction of PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH alone. The concern is made greater by the Ramparts book which I hold in low regard.

And when I consider that you say you will have 50 items, with my knowledge of what has been written, I shudder, knowing some of this "politics of assassination" in the JFK case.

Nonetheless, because of my basic belief with which I began this letter, I do agree. I record this because I do not want to be committed to whatever your entirely unspecified doctrine and belief may be.

I will welcome any specifics you may have time to provide.

And of course, I do hope that my fears are groundless and I do agree with what you will be saying.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

cc: JLesar

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